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BRIEFING NOTE TO THE MINISTER

UPDATE ON CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW CHAMPLAIN BRIDGE CORRIDOR PROJECT

(For Information)

PURPOSE

- This note is to provide you with an update on the construction of the New Champlain Bridge Corridor Project (NCBC), including a recent decision and next steps on the dispute resolution process related to this summer's crane operators strike.

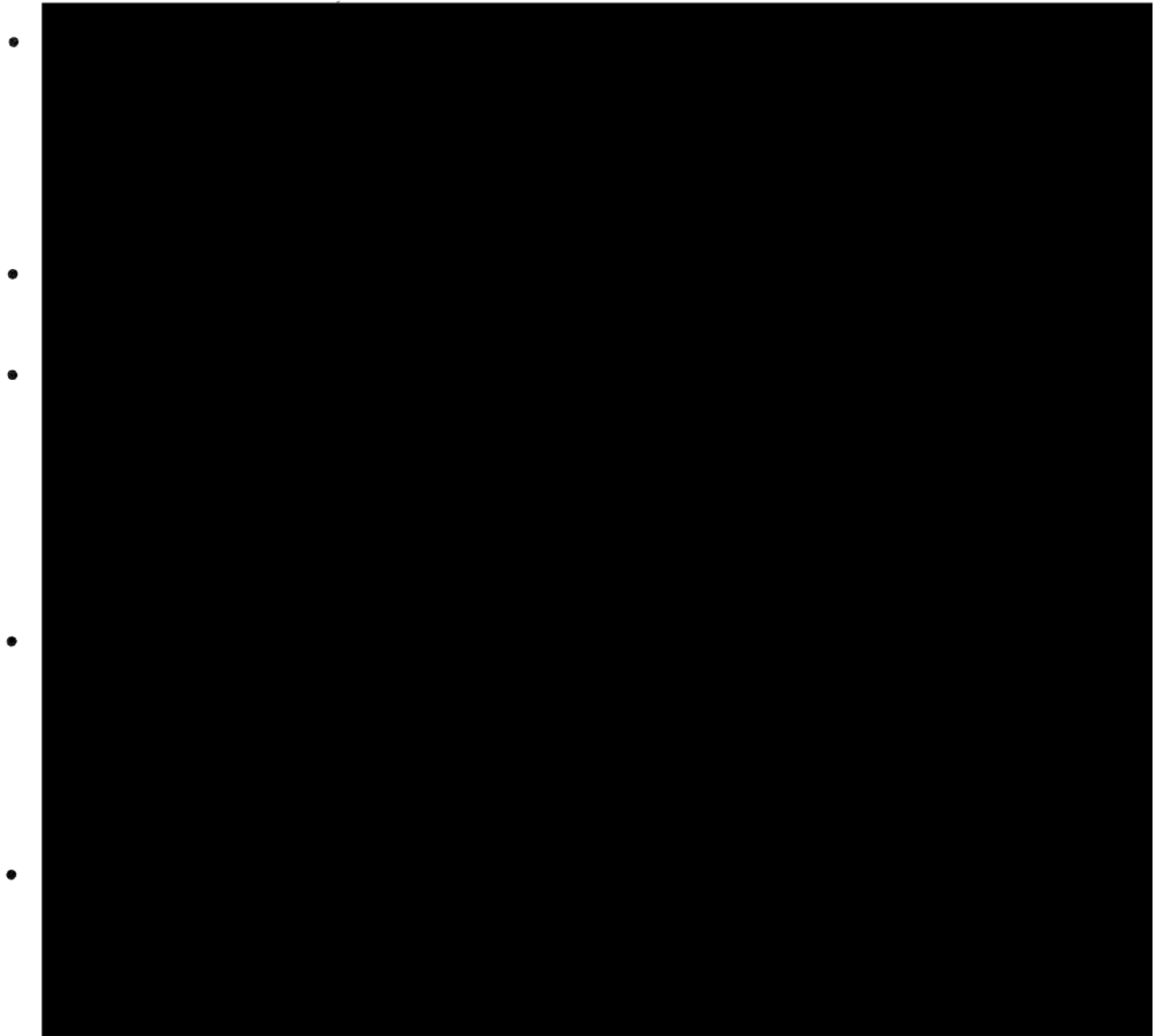
BACKGROUND

- Construction on the Project is well advanced. As of today, the main span tower is built to approximately 95% of its total height and approximately 70% of the components of the main span superstructure (i.e. span over the seaway) are installed. The installation of the foundations, piers and pier caps on the east and west approaches of the bridge is completed, and approximately 95% of the box-girders and 60% of the deck slabs are installed (**Annex A** – Bridge Component Illustration).
- A component of the NCBC project is the construction of a new Île-des-Soeurs Bridge to replace the existing decommissioned bridge. The new 470 metre long bridge will connect Île-des-Soeurs to the mainland and is expected to be open for circulation in both directions on October 22nd, 2018 (see Next Steps for communications plans).
- The contractual date for the completion of the New Champlain Bridge is December 21, 2018. The completion date for the remainder of the corridor is October 31, 2019.

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- In May-June 2018, following the publication and coming into force of new construction regulations in Québec, crane operators conducted an illegal strike which resulted in disruptions to the project. As a result, work days were lost and critical path activities were placed under additional pressure.



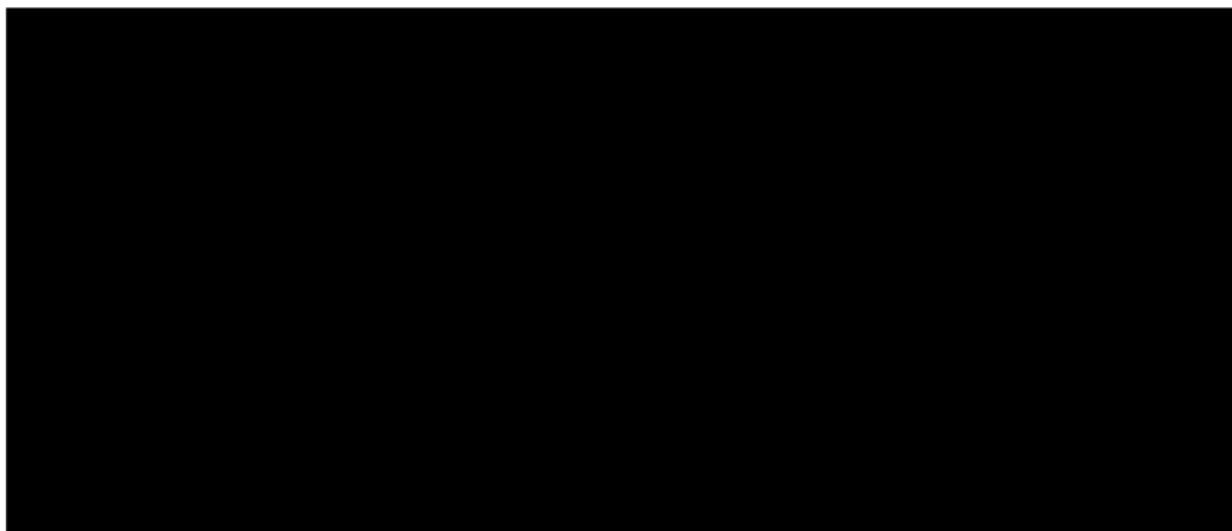
CONSIDERATIONS

- It is unlikely that the new Champlain Bridge will be open to traffic on December 21, 2018, regardless of the outcome of the dispute resolution process. Experts from Arup are of the view that a December opening is no longer possible.

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NEXT STEPS



- Planning is underway for a media update and site visit/photo op of the New Champlain Bridge Corridor Project take place in October 2018. It would be an opportunity to: update on progress and inform the public that the new Bridge will not be open to traffic on December 21, 2018; reiterate that the existing bridge is safe:

_____ officially open the Ile-des-Soeurs Bridge, and report on the decision following consultations on the re-naming of the Champlain Bridge. A detailed communications approach will be presented to your office shortly.

- Canada remains proactive and committed towards ensuring the delivery of a quality bridge in the best possible timeline and costs, and in the best interest of Canada. We will come back to you with any new development.

	<u>Oct 4/19</u>
Kelly Gillis Deputy Minister Infrastructure and Communities	Date

Attachment:
Annex A – Bridge Component Illustration

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ANNEX A

Bridge Component Illustration

